



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, DC 20460

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION
AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Request for Immediate Suspension of:

CORINNE MILLER
EPA Case No. 16-0841-05A

FROM: Jamie Lemley, Debarment Counsel
Suspension and Debarment Division (3902R)

TO: Duc H. Nguyen, Suspension and Debarment Official
Office of Grants and Debarment (3901R)

DATE: January 3, 2017

The following facts have come to my attention and are offered in support of this request for the suspension of CORINNE MILLER (“MILLER”). The Federal Acquisition Regulation (“FAR”) provides for the suspension and debarment of contractors at 48 C.F.R. Subpart 9.4. The FAR further notes that § 2455 of Public Law 103-355 and Executive Order 12689 provide for the reciprocal effect of a debarment action taken under the Nonprocurement Common Rule. Therefore, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) Suspension and Debarment Division (“SDD”) recommends that this action be taken pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 180 as implemented by 2 C.F.R. § 1532, EPA’s nonprocurement debarment regulation.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The EPA SDD respectfully requests that you suspend MILLER. This recommendation is based on information that MILLER was charged with one count of Misconduct in Office, MCL 750.505, one count of Conspiracy - Misconduct in Office, MCL 750.157a, and one count of Willful Neglect of Duty, MCL 750.478. *See Exhibit 1 – Complaint for Michigan v. Miller*, Michigan State Court for the 67th Judicial District, 7th Judicial Circuit.

II. RESPONDENT

2. MILLER, at all relevant times, was a Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (“MDHHS”) employee serving as the Director of the Bureau of Epidemiology and State Epidemiologist. *Exhibit 2 – Michigan Attorney General Press Release*, July 29, 2016 at 3.

III. FACTUAL NARRATIVE

3. On July 29, 2016, a complaint was filed in Michigan State Court in which MILLER was charged with one count of Misconduct in Office, MCL 750.505; one count of Conspiracy - Misconduct in Office, MCL 750.157a; and one count of Willful Neglect of Duty, MCL 750.478. The complaint regarding MILLER is attached at Exhibit 1 and incorporated by reference herein. *See Exhibit 1 – Complaint for Michigan v. Miller*, Michigan State Court for the 67th Judicial District, 7th Judicial Circuit; *see also* Exhibit 2 – Michigan Attorney General Press Release, July 29, 2016.

IV. STATEMENT OF AUTHORITIES

4. Each count charged in MILLER’s complaint provides adequate evidence to suspect she committed an offense(s) listed under 2 C.F.R. § 180.800(a)(4). As such, there is sufficient cause for her suspension pursuant to 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.700(a) and (c). *See Exhibit 1 – Complaint for Michigan v. Miller*, Michigan State Court for the 67th Judicial District, 7th Judicial Circuit.

5. Additionally, the information contained in MILLER’s complaint provides adequate evidence to suspect she engaged in improper conduct—misconduct in office, conspiracy, and willful neglect of duty—of so serious or compelling a nature as to affect her present responsibility. As such there is sufficient cause, and a separate independent basis, for her suspension pursuant to 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.700(b) and (c). *See Exhibit 1 – Complaint for Michigan v. Miller*, Michigan State Court for the 67th Judicial District, 7th Judicial Circuit.

V. IMPACT ANALYSIS – IMMEDIATE NEED

6. The EPA routinely awards grants to the Michigan Department of Community Health.¹ From 2008 through 2016, the U.S. EPA awarded \$7,443,936 in grant funds to the Michigan Department of Community Health. *See Exhibit 4 – USA Spending.gov – Search Results for “Michigan Department of Community Health,” Awarding Agency: Environmental Protection Agency.*

7. As a result of MILLER’s experience at MDHHS she has been, is, or may reasonably be expected to be a “participant” or “principal” in a covered transaction within the meaning of 2 C.F.R. Part 180, Subpart B, 2 C.F.R. Part 1532, Subpart B, and 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.980, 180.995, and 1532.995.

8. Given the nature of the circumstances giving rise to the cause for MILLER’s suspension and the potential for a business relationship or involvement with a program of the Federal Government, including any influence she may have over funds provided by the Federal Government, immediate action is necessary to protect the public interest pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 180.700(c).

¹ MDHHS is a combination of the Michigan Department of Community Health and the Michigan Department of Human Services, which was created by an executive order issued by the governor of Michigan in 2015. *See Exhibit 3 – Executive Order No. 2015 - 4, Creation of the Department of Health and Human Services*, February 6, 2015.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

9. Based on the information and the authorities contained herein, SDD respectfully recommends the immediate suspension of MILLER pending the completion of her legal proceedings.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION

10. This case was investigated by the State of Michigan's Attorney General.

11. EPA has submitted relevant information on this matter to the Interagency Suspension and Debarment Committee and has been designated as Lead Agency pursuant to its process.

EXHIBITS

1. Complaint for *Michigan v. Miller*, Michigan State Court for the 67th Judicial District, 7th Judicial Circuit.
2. Michigan Attorney General Press Release, July 29, 2016.
3. Executive Order – No. 2015 – 4, Creation of the Department of Health and Human Services, February 6, 2015.
4. USAspending.gov – Search Results for “Michigan Department of Community Health,” Awarding Agency: Environmental Protection Agency.